

Growing Together

Bible Story
Jesus is crucified.
Matthew 27:32-61

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection 7:
God sent Jesus to take the punishment for sin.

Bible Verse
"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard"
(Romans 3:23).

In Touch

Today your child learned that God sent Jesus to take the punishment for sin. The children learned that sin traps us, buries us, and makes our lives feel out of control. The children also learned that Jesus' death gives us a way back to God. Use these ideas to help your child understand Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Outdoor Fun

Take the family for a sidewalk hike. The only rule is that no one can step on a crack. When someone does step on a crack, let him or her decide whether to take the punishment or to choose another family member to take the punishment. The punishment is 15 seconds of rib tickling. When you get home, say a prayer of thanks to Jesus for taking our punishment.

Still at Work

This project will help your child remember that death didn't stop Jesus. Pour one cup of warm water into a plastic 2-liter bottle. Add one tablespoon of corn syrup, and shake until well-mixed. (Be sure to cover the top of the bottle before you shake it!) Add one package of dry yeast. Shake the bottle until the yeast dissolves. It will look like the yeast has disappeared. Stretch an uninflated balloon over the top of the bottle. Secure it by wrapping a rubber band around the top of the bottle several times. Watch to see what happens—the balloon will inflate. Talk about how Jesus' work wasn't finished when it looked like he was gone. Talk about how Jesus works in the world today, even though we can't see him.

Seed Promises

Plant flower seeds with your child. Examine the seeds with your child. Explain that flower seeds were once part of living flowers, and it's only when a flower dies that new seeds are made. Remind your child that when Jesus died, he brought us new life. Put your child in charge of keeping the seeds moist and in sunlight. Every day, look for signs of life, and thank God for the promise he has made to bring us new life. When the seeds sprout, praise God for keeping his promise.

Snuffed Out

Eat a meal by candlelight. You may want to use a grapevine wreath as a candle ring to represent the crown of thorns. Talk about all the ways Jesus is a light to the world. Thank Jesus for being the light that shows us the way back to God. At the end of the meal, blow out the candles, and talk about how Jesus died and was buried. Thank Jesus for being willing to take our punishment. Leave the candle unlit on your dinner table for three days, and then light it again to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.